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March 28, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Senate President
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I am allowing Senate Bill 366 - *Transportation - Passenger Railroad Service Lines - Closure of MARC Train Stations* to become law without my signature.

This emergency bill requires that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) continue to operate three stations (the St. Denis, Dickerson, and Boyds Stations) on the CSX operated Brunswick and Camden lines until March 6, 2007. It also requires that MTA perform several specific studies and report on its findings before closing any stations on these lines. The studies must include, but are not limited to: possible traffic congestion due to station closures, the impact of population growth in specified areas on ridership at the station, the methodology used to compute daily ridership, projected ridership under specified conditions, options to increase ridership at stations with low ridership, information on the schedule for installing ticket vending machines at the stations, and potential alternatives to closing stations.

On February 10, 2006, I directed Transportation Secretary Robert L. Flanagan to continue the service provided by four MARC commuter rail stations being considered for closure due to low ridership. The four stations are the Boyd and Dickerson stations on the Brunswick Line and the Jessup and St. Denis stations on the Camden Line. Secretary Flanagan also announced he will establish an advisory committee, including MARC riders, to review this issue and assist the Maryland Department of Transportation in further study of ridership levels and related issues. Members of the advisory committee will confer with local officials, CSX, and other interested parties.

Despite the lack of need for the legislation, I am allowing Senate Bill 366 to go into effect without my signature.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor